

SPORTS

CYCLISTS OPEN SEASON



Soviet track cyclists have started a series of national events at the Krylatskoye Olympic track in Moscow for the new season. Some 150 top racers are now competing, mostly in bunch races, to build up confidence after the break and will vie for the Aeolus prizes in the Olympic events over January 18-20.

Also expected to attend are cyclists from France, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, who view the event as providing an excellent opportunity to check their shape for the 1984 Olympic season on a fast track and to meet leading Soviet cyclists who have held sights set on Olympic awards. Taking part will be Sergei Kop'ylov, world time trials and silver sprint metallist from Tula, and 4 km individual pursuit world champion and record breaker, Viktor Kuprov, from Rostov-on-Don, a discovery of last season.

Krylatskoye will also host the national winter championships on January 25-31 which will make it clearer just who is in the running for the Olympics.

Alexander BUTSENIN
Photo by Yury Turov

In the photo: a scene from the 100-lap individual race with 20 intermediate finishes.

Muscovites make use of the Olimpiiskiy pool

Every day 6,000 Muscovites train at this country's biggest Olympic swimming pool in Moscow which was specially built for the 22nd Summer Olympics.

It now has two 50 m pools each with ten lanes and one for diving, in addition to four gyms, as well as a rehabilitation centre, including four saunas, the Sharko hydromassage, and circulation showers.

Personnel from over 600 Moscow offices and factories practise here under some 80 coaches. A total of 190 groups

will cater to 15 people each this year.

Regular athletes use the pool too, among them distinguished swimmers, water polo players, divers, synchronized and underwater swimmers and water skiers. In addition to children from various schools.

Water skiers use a powerful winch fixed on the edge of the pool and used for a launch to help them make two to three figures on one 50 m stretch.

The pool is the site of big national and international contests attended by 15,000 viewers at a time. Valeriya MIRONOVA

Russian troikas at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements.
Photo by Andrey Knyazev

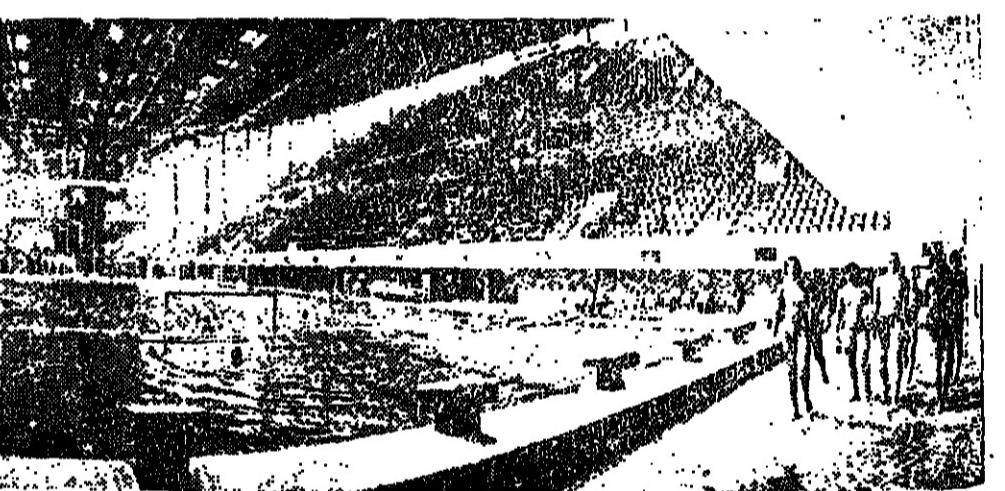
RUSSIAN TROIKA CHAMPIONSHIP

The USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow was recently the venue for the annual Russian troika championship, held as part of the Russian Winter Festival. Taking part in this colourful game were 20 troikas from various studios in the Russian Federation.

The winner of this championship for the tenth time, V. F.

min (Vladimir Region), drove a troika of Orel jet-black horses, among them wheeler Pucherk. By common consent, his troika team stood out among the rest of the field in terms of their coat and harness.

Over 20,000 exhibition visitors were able to take a ride in a troika during the fete.



Who will host the 1990 world football cup?

The Soviet Union has very good conditions for hosting the 1990 world football cup. FIFA President, Jean Havelange, told a press conference in Leningrad. The city is now the venue for 4th International junior tournament in memory of the first FIFA Vice-President, Valentin Grammatkin, in which Belgium, the USSR, the USA, France, and West Germany are taking part.

The stadiums I saw in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk, Havelange stressed, fully conform to FIFA requirements. From Leningrad I intend to travel to Georgia, Armenia and Moscow, he said.

The FIFA president noted that the other championship bidders were Britain, Greece and Italy. The final selection will be made in May after a special commission set up by the FIFA Executive Committee has thoroughly studied all that each bidder has to offer.

The stadiums I saw in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk,

Norway's Olympic bid

According to survey run by the local public opinion institute, most Norwegians favour the town of Lillehammer, 180 kilometres north of Oslo, to host the 1992 Winter Olympics.

A special Olympic committee has been set up to include members of the municipal council, political parties' sports organizations and the business community. According to press reports, the committee has asked the government to discuss economic guarantees for all expenses involved in the organization and staging of the 1992 Winter Olympics.

According to reports from Los Angeles, the artistic programme for the 1984 Olympics has been slashed. An international poetry

festival which was to have been held under UNESCO #87 has been cancelled.

A spokesman for the Summer Olympics Organizing Committee said that this was due to lack of time, money and space—but such "empty" just do not have a leg to stand on. Local press reports add that the committee's decision programme is extremely strict and does not envisage participation by world-famous ensembles for the money aspect.

He had said it was willing to

spare 50,000 dollars for a poetry festival.

1984 artistic programme slashed

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ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD

DEAR READERS,

"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both "Moscow News" and "MN in

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Photo by Georgi Solovyov

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THE WORLD

AN ONSLAUGHT AGAINST ICELAND

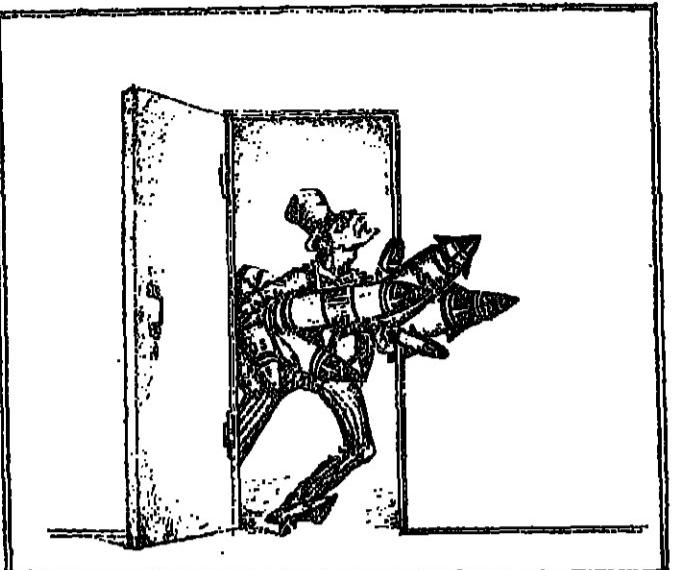
Reykjavik. The United States is pulling Iceland still further into its plans of aggression, by expanding its military facilities on the island which play an important role.

The US Strategic Air Command intends to amass considerable reserves of fuel for strategic bombers in Iceland. The House Committee on Appropriations in Washington discussed Pentagon's request for 60 million dollars to build a marina oil terminal and a fuel depot near an American base in south-west Iceland, for the needs of a major American base at Keflavik. The volume of the new oil tanks will be eight times larger than the facilities available at the moment. This will sustain US Air Force opera-

tions for 45 days after hostilities begin.

While debating in the Committee the plans for expanding America's military presence in Iceland, another 15.8 million dollars were requested to construct an underground centre to control the US Armed Forces, the "Thjodviljan" newspaper reports. According to Pentagon spokesmen, who attended the Committee's meeting, this centre is to ensure the control of the US Armed Forces for seven days.

It is surprising that questions which immediately concern Iceland's security, are being discussed in the US Congress while the Icelandic Government knows nothing about this, the newspaper pointed out.



Prominent UNESCO member condemns U.S. blackmail

Delli. The Reagan administration has been sharply criticized for its attempt to put pressure on the international community by threatening to withdraw from UNESCO. The criticism comes from T. N. Kaul, a prominent Indian public leader and member of the UNESCO Executive Council. In an interview to the Delhi correspondent of the Inter Press Service news agency, he pointed out that ruling circles in the United States are trying to dictate to UNESCO, which cannot be tolerated by any sovereign state or organization.

T. N. Kaul condemned White House attempts to change the UNESCO Charter to suit its books. There are no legal grounds for the statements

made by American officials that UNESCO should refrain from activities which promote disarmament, peace, and put an end to race discrimination.

Neither is there any substance to the allegations that UNESCO's frame of reference excludes such matters as the establishment of a new order in mass media coverage or the establishment of a new world economic order. In accordance with its Charter UNESCO activities are closely linked with safeguarding peace on earth, Kaul noted.

Washington's attempts to blackmail the international community will be to no avail. UNESCO will carry on with its work and fulfil its noble mission, he stressed.

...Only brotherhood and wisdom of people

Asianansivo. Those who think that nuclear war will not affect Africa are under a grave delusion, said President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka. Despite contradictions among states, different ideologies and development levels only brotherhood and wisdom of the people could save the earth and mankind from nuclear disaster, the President pointed out.

Madagascar, he continued, is consistently carrying out a peaceful foreign policy and is ready to promote friendship and cooperation with all nations.

Our country favours general and complete disarmament, elimination of foreign military bases, creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Indian Ocean, dissolution of all military blocs, and a new international eco-

Botha says 'No' to talks with SWAPO

Lusaka. The South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, is ready to have talks with South Africa provided that the two sides discuss a ceasefire without the intrusion of irrelevant issues, says a statement released by SWAPO. A ceasefire agreement must lead to the implementation of the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 435 which demands an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African troops and

the holding of free elections under UN supervision, the statement says.

It notes that for a long time the propaganda machine in Pretoria has been trying to create an impression that South Africa is ready for negotiations, whereas in fact the racists are doing all they can to avoid such talks. SWAPO suggests that the so-called general administrator, who is in fact a colonial governor in Namibia, set a specific date when talks could begin through the mediation of the UN Secretary-General.

Reports from Pretoria say that the racist regime's Foreign Minister, R. Botha, has flatly rejected SWAPO's proposal for direct talks. The South African government sees no sense in such negotiations, he cynically said, thus confirming that the apartheid regime intends to perpetuate its occupation of Namibia. Political observers point out that this statement was made after consultations with the racists' American allies.

On his country's domestic policy, the President noted some improvements in the republic's economy. He stressed it had nearly reached self-sufficiency in the basic food products and the goal was to raise production of rice and wheat. He urged people to work better still in the name of the Malagasy socialist revolution.

VIEWPOINT

FOR A EUROPE WITHOUT CHEMICAL WEAPONS

At various international forums the Soviet Union has consistently favoured the banning and destruction of chemical weapons. A recent imperialist initiative in this field was the presentation by the USSR Foreign Ministry, in agreement with other Warsaw Treaty nations, of a memorandum to the embassies of Britain, Belgium, West Germany, France, Denmark, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the USA, Turkey and France.

The topically of the Soviet proposal is unquestionable. It is known that the Pentagon intends to boost its stockpiles of chemical weapons, of which there are now 150,000 tonnes—enough, according to "The Washington Post", to kill all men, women and children on this planet. On balance, the US administration plans to spend 10,000 million dollars for the development of a new generation of chemical weapons in the next

five years. Characteristically, Washington does not hide intentions regarding the use of chemical weapons in the European theatre of war on the territory of its partners.

Not surprisingly, the Soviet memorandum emphasizes: At a time of increasing world tension, there is a growing danger of the use of chemical weapons, primarily in Europe. The triple alliance is today being actively knocked together between the United States, Japan and South Korea. What measures are suggested for implementation in Europe to remove the chemical threat?

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What measures are suggested for implementation in Europe to remove the chemical threat? Partial measures of a regional nature to limit, reduce and destroy chemical means, as compared with global measures, would affect fewer states and would be easier to agree upon and implement. An initial implementation of the proposal to make Europe free of chemical weapons, the UN Human Rights Commission stressed recently.

Clearly, the new Soviet initiative opens up real ways of averting the chemical threat in Europe and subsequently worldwide. How will West European states react? The socialist countries expect the governments of NATO countries to give their fullest consideration to the proposal. It is obvious that a binational constructive approach to freeing Europe of chemical weapons would advance the interests of all peoples and nations.

Edgar CEPOROV

Photo: AP

Kampuchea-Laos: links grow

Phnom Penh. Relations of closest solidarity and all-round cooperation between Kampuchea and Laos are constantly growing and strengthening, stressed Che Sim, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and Chairman of the country's National Assembly. Addressing a meeting of Kampuchean-Laotian friendship in Phnom Penh, he emphasized that over the years since the country's liberation from the bloodstained power of Pol Pot, the Kampuchean people have reconstructed the country and eliminated the threat of hunger with the help of the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Laos and other countries of the socialist com-

Seven assassinated in Guatemala each day

Washington. The regime led by General Mejia in Guatemala is fully responsible for the growing wave of violence and reprisals in the country. This conclusion was reached by the influential public organization, the Western Hemisphere Council. Conservative estimates from the US Embassy in Guatemala note a sharp increase in the number of politically motivated murders since Mejia came to power in August last year. In September the military killed 115 people, and in October the number of victims rose to 220.

The reactionary regime systematically persecutes university professors, school teachers, religious leaders, and peasant leaders. According to the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, nearly 95 thousand people have died and more than 40 thousand have disappeared owing to political violence since 1954. Disregarding all this, the Reagan administration is stepping up its military and economic aid to the dictatorship, seeking to turn Guatemala and Honduras into stepping stones in its aggression against Central America.

In the meantime, Gen. Mejia has declared that his country's armed forces are ready to take part in the military exercises, Big Pine-3, which the United States is staging in Honduras. Speaking in the town of Salamá, in the south-eastern district of Baja Verapaz, he stressed that the Guatemalan army's participation in the joint exercises with units from the United States, Honduras and El Salvador will serve as a good school in combat training.

The report stresses that Reagan's policies have led to an unprecedented growth in unemployment, and to an abrupt curtailment of the socio-economic programmes vital for millions of Americans. As a result, every seventh American, or fifteen per cent of the population, live in dire poverty. In 1982, 34 per cent of Americans lived below the official poverty line, while the number of children living in poor conditions increased by nine per cent.

The authors of the report state that instead of helping the poor Americans, the present administration is continuing its onslaught on the social security programmes. They estimate that in 1982-1984 fiscal years, tens of thousands of millions of dollars were withdrawn from the funds on social needs. The first to be stepped or cancelled completely were the programmes of aid to the elderly, the unemployed, to children and to the starving, while the money saved has been used by the Reagan administration to boost up further the military budget which has increased, out of every proportion, although the country cannot afford this.

The report says.

Science and technology

CLEAN FISHING TACKLE

The fight against plant and animal organisms which attach themselves to fishing equipment has been a major problem in the fishing industry. The many chemicals invented to combat the organisms either damaged the net or killed the fish. A chemical has now been developed, however, which avoids these disadvantages. Made out of oil products with a copper compound as a toxic component, it retains its properties for 18 months.

AMERICA'S BIGGEST RADIOTELESCOPE

The construction has started of the biggest American telescope. It will cost the California Institute of Technology the sum of four million dollars. The radiotelescope will eventually be installed in the crater of an extinct volcano on the Hawaii Islands in 1986.

OF INTEREST

Giggle, and you lose

In the southern tip of the Malacca Peninsula in Malaysia, the local residents have a tradition of a special sort of lighting in which the rivals are armed with parrot feathers, rather than the usual pistol or sword. After a sign from the referee, the rivals enter a circle three metres in diameter, where they then begin to tickle each other. Few duels last for more than three minutes. The loser is the one who laughs first. These fights draw huge crowds of sympathetic viewers.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

OBJECTIVE DEMANDS

PRAVDA writes that one of the striking points especially used by the USA and its allies at the Geneva talks was America's reluctance to include the British, French nuclear arms in the general balance of nuclear medium-range missiles in Europe.

Western propaganda claims that the British and French nuclear weapons are meant exclusively for national defence. Even granted that, this would still apply to the Soviet Union, since, unlike NATO states, it has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

Some people also argue that because of their nature and limited size the British and French nuclear arms allegedly could not threaten the USSR—but already Britain and France have over 200 carriers, among them 102 missiles with over 400 nuclear warheads. According to French military experts, the nuclear charges on submarines alone could kill 50,000,000 people, the newspaper points out. Some estimates predict that by 1990 the number of warheads in the British and French nuclear systems will increase to 1,200 units—so one just cannot shut one's eyes to their danger, the newspaper argues.

ARE THERE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN JAPAN?

TASS commentator Vasily Kharkov writes: While the Japanese Government continues to claim that nuclear weapons "have not been brought and are not being brought into the country", an official reference book of US naval forces, which has been published in Washington, contradicts it, saying that American submarines armed with nuclear weapons have been based at Japanese ports on more than one occasion.

But even after it was issued the Japanese authorities have continued to assert that they are "firmly committed" to the non-nuclear principles. Their argument is that advance consultations are needed to allow the entry of American nuclear weapons in Japan, and as there have been no such consultations, so there have been no US nuclear weapons brought into Japan. But none of the Japanese leaders have ever asked the US command if the American ships, visiting Japan, are armed with nuclear weapons.

This year, and this has been announced by Washington officially, ships of the US 7th Fleet will begin to be fitted with nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Many of these warships are based in Japan. That country, which has lived through the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cannot but realize what this dangerous presence may lead to.

SECRET WAR AGAINST AFRICA

In addition to frontal attacks, the racists are resorting increasingly to waging a secret war against neighbouring African states making use of puppet counter-revolutionary regimes, writes the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper. The Zimbabwean leaders have repeatedly declared that the South African Republic is hatching up a Fifth Column in their country. The National Resistance Movement in Mozambique and UNITA in Angola, instructed and financed by Pretoria, have been stepping up their operations.

The CIA, whose links with UNITA are on open secret, acts hand in glove with the South African secret services. Indeed, the Director of the CIA, William J. Casey went on a personal visit to South Africa to discuss close cooperation between the secret services of the two countries. This interaction represents yet another link in American imperialism's subversive activities against independent Africa.

IRAN AND THE WEST

Imperialist powers, primarily the USA, are not abandoning the idea of restoring their positions in Iran, writes the NEW TIMES magazine. More specifically, American special services are fanning the biased and even hostile attitudes towards the USSR and other socialist countries which have always been typical of the right wing of the Iranian religious-political leadership. Their aim is essentially to fan up these quarters with Reagan's "crusade" against communism, the chief target being Soviet internationalist aid to Afghanistan in defence of the April revolution. Seeing the developments in Afghanistan as an attempt to "suppress the Islamic revolution" Iran's rulers and their supporters have taken a hostile stand against the Afghan Government and are backing the Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

This and other facts indicate, the magazine notes, that leading imperialist powers are eager both to preserve their positions on the Iranian market and to influence Iran's policies.

Lost property in Paris

More than 600 telephone calls are made each day to a building in Rue des Morillons in Paris where the lost property office is located.

In 1982 Parisians and visitors to the French capital lost a total of 152,170 objects. In the metro, buses, taxis, airports and other public places of the city. These included teddy-bears, paint cans, dolls, babies' bottles and even dentures. Keys are the main object of human abomination with more than 13,200 key-cases having been lost over the year, followed by 11,400 umbrellas and over 8,000 pairs of gloves. About one-third of the missing possessions have been reunited with their owners.

Dogs help the deaf

In Britain the only organization which trains dogs for the deaf has marked one year of operation. After a 4-month course of training, the dog can recognize his master when the telephone or the doorbell rings, the baby cries and will alert him when the kettle boils.

THE WORLD



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North Korea proposes tripartite talks

New York. At the request of a group of African countries the UN Security Council has begun consultations concerning South Africa's intention to execute Maloiso Maleseka, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa.

In a letter he wrote to the Security Council the group chairman, Togo's permanent representative at the UN, Alou Amega, states that the racists sentenced the patriot to death, only because he dared challenge the inhumane apartheid system in South Africa.

The UN condemns the new crime planned by the South African racists. A statement by the African National Congress at the UN points out that Pretoria has turned South Africa into a military-police state. The latest figures indicate there are now over 105,000 inmates in South African jails, among them is the noted fighter for the freedom of the African population of South Africa, and African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, sentenced to life imprisonment. The existence of the apartheid regime is the main reason for the great extent of the unfavourable situation has been caused by the crisis in the world capitalist economy to which many emerging states are linked. Prices of raw materials which are staple items in African exports have dropped because of decrease in the need for copper and other minerals in the West.

Ocas of the main reasons for the low annual production growth in Africa, which stands at 0.2 per cent, has been a severe drought which hit 34 countries. Forecasts say that nearly 150 million Africans will suffer from malnutrition and hunger in 1984 as a result. Adverse weather conditions are not the only reason for the poor economic performance. To a great extent this unfavourable situation has been caused by the crisis in the world capitalist economy to which many emerging states are linked. Prices of raw materials which are staple items in African exports have dropped because of decrease in the need for copper and other minerals in the West.

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Adverse weather conditions are not the only

HOME NEWS

Round the Soviet Union

AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING THE FERTILITY OF SOIL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AT THE UKMGERE AGROCHEMICAL COMPLEX, THE BIGGEST IN THE BALTIC REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA. Such automated control systems which are being introduced in other parts of Lithuania, will enable agrochemists to double the amount of services they are able to offer land farmers before the end of the present five-year plan period in 1985.

A 3.5 TIME INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF CONTAINER CARGOES WILL BE ACHIEVED WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF A SPECIAL BERTH UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE CARGO PORT OF THE CITY OF ZHADNOV, IN THE UKRAINE. The port has put into operation the first phase of a terminal for receiving large container-carrying ships. For the first time in this country particularly solid slags, a by-product from the steel works, have been used in the building of such berths.

WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DANUBE-DNIESTER IRRIGATION SYSTEM (LINKING THE TWO RIVERS)—THE BIGGEST IN THE COUNTRY—THE ARID BUDZAK STEPPE IS BEING MADE SUITABLE FOR FARMING. 22,000 hectares will be irrigated in the Odessa Region before the end of the current five-year plan period.

THE SILENCE OF KRESTA BAY WAS RECENTLY BROKEN BY HOOING AS THE M/S "KAPITAN MARKOV" ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF EGOVKA. NOT AFTER BEING ESCORTED THROUGH BORDING ICE FIELDS BY THE "VLADIMIROTOK" ICEBREAKER. This is the second port (the first was Provinys) on the eastern coast of the Chukotka Peninsula in the extreme north-east of the country, to welcome a ship caravan in January, five months earlier than usual. From now on navigation routes between the east coast of Chukotka and Far Eastern ports will be open all the year round.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet State, saw the main trend in the development of Soviet democracy as consisting in ensuring the general participation by citizens in the running of the state. The in-depth examination of the genuine power of the people in the Soviet Union is the subject of an article in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA.

Nationwide discussions have become a stable phenomenon of our life. Not a single state plan, or major law, have been passed over the past few years without preliminary widespread discussion by the people. A vivid example is provided by the current discussion of the proposed reform of our general and vocational educational systems.

The right to participate in the running of state and public affairs, the power of the masses, said Vladimir Lenin, is realized through organizations which are structured in such a way so as to awaken and stimulate these masses for historical activity... This means the Soviets of the People's Deputies. They have 2.3 million elected deputies. In addition over 30 million activists make a permanent contribution to the operation of the Soviets. This also means the organs of people's control in whose everyday activities over 10 million people take part. More than 600 thousand representatives of work collectives act as people's assessors, while the voluntary militia with a membership of 1 million help enforce public order. The trade unions, the Young Communist League, the cooperative and other working people's associations, encompassing virtually the entire adult population of this country are likewise included. As inalienable components of Soviet society, they participate, in accordance with their rules and regulations, in running the country, in the solution of political, economic, social and cultural problems.

Waste-collecting ship

Protecting the sea against pollution by oil products is the purpose of the diesel "Flora", built at Khabarovsk, in the Far East.

The powerful separators installed on the ship purify the oil-containing waste collected in the fishing area from trawlers and refrigerators. Before these "sanitation" operations had to be done in port which meant the fishermen often had to leave the fishing area at the height of the catch. The oil products thus collected can be recycled.

SCIENCE AND THE STATE PLAN

The 12 km mark has been reached at the Kola Peninsula superdeep borehole, the deepest world record. Venera-15 and -16, the Soviet automatic stations, transmit valuable information about the enigmatic Morning Star. In 1983 scientists helped to introduce into industry 3.7 thousand different types of machines, equipment, instruments and materials.

Such are the results, writes PRAVDA, of the achievements of Soviet science, which is directed at solving practical problems related to developing this country's productive forces, and to intensifying social production.

Our scientists and engineers are faced with the complex tasks contained in the 1984 State Plan. There are over 1,150 goals to be achieved in the development of new technology and over 380 in the introduction of progressive technologies, automation and mechanization. Altogether (industrial and departmental plans included) it is intended to develop about 3.9 thousand machines, pieces of equipment, instruments and materials; over the year, 2.2 thousand outdated industrial products will be discontinued, while 600 automobile control systems for technological processes will be put into operation. This large-scale programme should bring down production costs in industry in 1984 by 3.9 billion rubles.

GEOLOGISTS ASSISTED BY SPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Soviet scientists are of the opinion that space photography makes geological surveys twice as efficient, writes IZVESTIA. The truth of this opinion is confirmed by the brilliant forecasts of Siberian space geologists. Space photography has succeeded for the first time in Western Siberia to locate a new oil deposit, now named Sredne-Kondinskoye.

The search for traces of underground minerals started several years ago here. Seismological surveys and drilling engineers were told to check 120 anomalies

Improved machines for atomic plants

Soviet engineers plan to speed up the construction of one-million-kilowatt power units for atomic plants by equipping them with electric machines which are simpler to build and to assemble. One such turbogenerator has already been built at three times the previous speed due to the reduced size of its main parts which weigh much less than two hundred tonnes, thus eliminating the need for heavy forgings.

Energy from the Siberian power plants feeds the complexes processing Siberia's natural resources which have been built in the area. A considerable share of the electricity will be transmitted over transcontinental lines to the European part of the USSR.

To preserve land and the other natural resources in the vicinity of the hydro construction sites, Soviet engineers use a system of protective measures which considerably reduce the area of flooded land. As a rule, the cost of environmental protection amounts to one-fifth of all hydropower plant expenses.

The power development of the Siberian rivers began on the Angara, tributary of the Yenisei,

POWER FROM SIBERIA'S RIVERS

When it is completed, the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower station, now under construction in Eastern Siberia, on the Yenisei River, will be one of the largest in the world. The hydro dam (photo), with a capacity of 6.4 million kilowatts, will be 250 metres high. This station will eventually have ten power units; six are already in operation and two of the remaining four will be commissioned in 1984. The Yenisei, just like other Siberian rivers, has a vast power potential.

It operates the Krasnoyarsk hydro, the largest in the USSR. In expert opinion, power plants can be built in the Yenisei basin, totaling 60 million kilowatts which is four times more than the plants on the Volga, the largest European river. Production of electricity in Siberia is moreover twice as cheap.

The power development of the Siberian rivers began on the Angara, tributary of the Yenisei,

HOME NEWS

Places to visit

Toompea Castle in Tallinn



REPUBLIC'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. From the tower

one gets a beautiful panorama of the city and its surroundings, and in clear weather one can see as far as Finland.

Flying from the top of the tower in the state flag of the Estonian Soviet Republic. A building of a later date inside the castle accommodates the

MORE ROBOTS FOR INDUSTRY

Manipulators in this country are needed first and foremost to reduce the amount of manual work in the steel, construction and transport industries.

Under the programme for automation, it is planned to build 22 automated plants and 61 automated complexes in this country before 1990. By this date, Soviet industry will have at its disposal 50 thousand manipulators, or eight times as many as at present. The introduction of robotics into industry in the USSR has another two aims—to raise productivity and to improve quality accompanied by reductions in the workforce. By the end of 1985, for instance, it is planned to release fifty thousand workers doing manual jobs for other work. In this country, those who are made redundant because of automation are given the possibility of improving their skills or of being retrained to do other jobs at the expense of the company for which they work. A new job is guaranteed them, and during training they continue to receive average monthly wages.

and refrigerators. Before these

"sanitation" operations had to be done in port which meant the fishermen often had to leave the fishing area at the height of the catch. The oil products thus collected can be recycled.

SNOW LEOPARD MAKES A COMEBACK

As many as ten snow leopards, a whole family of them in fact, have settled down in the western spur of the Gissar mountain range in Uzbekistan, a Soviet Central Asian Republic. Nearly 25 years ago this rarest of animals was driven from the above region by man's economic expansion and left on the verge of extinction. However, after two nature reserves were set up in its former habitat the snow leopard made a comeback. The same applies to over 200 other species including such rare animals and birds as the Central Asian wild boar, the Turkestan fox, the red marmot and the white and black vultures.

In Uzbekistan alone there are now 12 nature reserves and 6 conservation areas with a territory of 375,000 hectares. In the

Red Data Book becomes thinner and thinner as the names of certain saved species are deleted—for instance, the auroch, the bison, the Caucasian cock, the Ross' gull and the Central Asian crane.

The re-establishment of the

snow leopard in the Uzbek mountains given one the hope that before long this rare predator will also be crossed out of the Red Data Book.

A million rose bushes for a million inhabitants

Botanist Vsevolod Kondratyuk and his colleagues have proved that coal slag heaps, always considered as dead ground, can be revived. After experiments on the slopes of heaps and in coal dumps, trees and shrubs began to grow there. For the first time in the 100-year history of Donetsk, these green "hills" stop

the dust being raised. Groves appeared next to mines. Donetsk—an industrial centre of the Ukraine with a population of one million—has become one of the country's greenest cities. In warm weather one million rose bushes blossom in its streets and parks, a bush per head of the population.

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This aircraft is designed at Oleg Antonov's design bureau in Kiev. In the not so distant future many uses will be found for it, as it is believed it can be helpful to farmers, doctors and to people employed in communications and many other services. At present those areas employ small-scale aircraft, numbering hundreds and thousands of light planes and helicopters. However, keeping up such a large number of aircraft is costly and needs highly-skilled maintenance and top-class pilots. In addition many such aircraft are unable to fly at low altitudes along forest ridges or follow a meandering mountain rivulet. This is what prompted the Oleg Antonov's bureau to design a supersmall, reliable and low cost aircraft meeting all the above requirements.

A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

By using the shortest cableway in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, it is possible to make a very long journey. This 36-metre trip leads from the present into the remote past.

The cableway is built at the foot of a hill on which rise the ruins of the ancient fortress Narikala. It was built at the request of an archaeologist and builders who began restoration work on this 4th-century architectural monument.

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Narikala is as old as Tbilisi itself and witness to its eventful history with its repeated repulsions of attacks from enemies. It is not fortuitous that chroniclers called it "detadzishvili" (mother-fortress). Before starting work architects, ethnographers and archaeologists studied the rich historical material. The first topographical plan of the fortress compiled in 1860 which they discovered gave the experts the idea that in the past there were underground passages linking the fortress to the banks of the Kura River.

Lake Unter-See, discovered

earlier, is remarkable for the fact that water under its three-metre thick ice cover even at -50°C always has an above-zero temperature. Unique living organisms, which have adapted themselves to life in eternal darkness and alpine conditions, live in the lake.

At the 140.8 metres, the Unter-See is the deepest of the inland reservoirs on the sixth continent.

This year Moscow will be the venue for major get-togethers of scientist, such as the 16th conference of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies and the 27th international geological congress. V/O Export-centre will help conference sponsors to arrange exhibitions around the theme of these forums.

As for the aims of these exhibitions, stress should be laid on exchange of know-how, acquaintance with the achievements of foreign partners and on the establishment of new contacts. In order to further these aims we organize symposiums at which representatives of different firms give lectures. For businessmen the exhibitions are also of commercial interest: they buy up samples and sign contracts for the delivery of machines and equipment.

Contact to the total sum of 2,000 million rubles were signed at our exhibitions in 1983. Thanks to their participation many foreign firms found new partners for themselves in the USSR. We hope that the results will be even better in the future.

Welcome to the exhibition to be held in our country in 1984!

Science and technology

A MODEL CARDIAC VALVE

A new model cardiac valve has been developed by Moscow scientists. The artificial substitute can stand heavy loads. It pumps 10 tonnes of blood per day. This is exactly the huge amount of work done by a healthy heart. The new valve substitute is better than similar foreign models as to its characteristics. It costs the state about 200 rubles (about 270 dollars). As for the patient he pays nothing either for the operation or the postoperative treatment, because medical aid is free in the USSR.

LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Scientists of the Far Eastern Scientific Research Centre of the USSR Academy of Sciences have summed up the results of their many years of work. They compiled a map of soil and geographic zoning, which will speed up the development of land in the eastern section of the Baikal-Amur Railway.

Soil, rock and vegetation were studied practically all over the region. The results obtained are reflected in the maps which include ecological characteristics and the economic evaluation of lands. Plots were allotted for cultivation as well as areas in need of reclamation.

ANTARCTIC RECORD ESTABLISHED

Explorers from the USSR and the GDR members of the 30th Soviet Antarctic expedition, tailored the following message to Leningrad: another unusual lake has been discovered in the vicinity of Wohlthat Mt. It has been named Ober-See.

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VIEWPOINT

1984: international and national exhibitions in the USSR

By Vladimir KORSIKOV, Director-General of V/O Export-centre of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The new year means new cares connected with the opening of the exhibition season in our country which has become a traditional venue for international and national industrial exhibitions. The following figures prove this: If in 1983 there were little more than 60 exhibitions, today there are about 250 a year. This, as well as the growing number of participating countries reveals the interest of foreign firms in promoting cooperation with the USSR.

The exhibitions arranged with the assistance of V/O Export-centre feature metallurgy, construction, research and many other subjects. The international exhibition "Economy of Resources in the Construction Industry", for instance, will be held in February 1984, and a major review, "Equipment, Appliances and Instruments for the Metalworking Industry"—in March-April. Opening in Moscow this summer for the fourth time, will be the International "Agricultural Machinery, Equipment and Instruments" exhibition.

The list of cities hosting exhibitions virtually amounts to an economic map of the USSR. We try to arrange reviews of world technical achievements in centres specializing in those branches of industry or science, which correspond to the subject of the exhibition. For example, an exhibition devoted to the baking industry will be held this year in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan), a major wheat-growing area; and an exhibition, "Industrial Methods of Installing Equipment on Ships" will take place in Leningrad, one of the centres of Soviet shipbuilding. In all, exhibitions will be arranged in more than 50 Soviet cities.

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